

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bill for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Bill many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W.
SIMMONS, PH.D.

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Charles W. Simmons, Ph.D., founder and president of Sojourner-Douglass College, Maryland's only independent institution of higher learning specifically focused on educating African Americans.

Like Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass, for whom the college is named, Dr. Simmons has devoted his life to helping others obtain the education and skills necessary to succeed both professionally and personally. Through his efforts, Sojourner-Douglass College has helped thousands of working adults become confident, self-reliant community leaders and decision-makers.

Dr. Simmons served in the U.S. Marine Corps and graduated from Antioch College. After graduating from college, he dedicated his life to empowering African Americans through education. In 1972, he established the Homestead-Montebello Center of Antioch College with just 13 students in donated space in east Baltimore. In 1980, the school was accredited under a new name, Sojourner-Douglass College. Today, it serves more than 2,000 students in locations throughout Maryland, as well as in Nassau, Bahamas.

Because of Dr. Simmons' vision, many more African American adults have obtained the skills necessary to improve not only their own lives, but the communities in which they live.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the achievements of Charles W. Simmons, Ph.D. His vision and commitment to the education and self-determination of African Americans is an inspiration to all who want to ensure that others have the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. Speaker, on rollcalls Nos. 241 and 242, I was delayed due to weather related issues. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY
CLINTON

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the outstanding citizens of my District.

Jerry Clinton is a native St. Louisan who is Chairman and CEO of Grey Eagle Distributors. Grey Eagle employs more than 175 people in St. Louis and has been recognized as one of America's premier Anheuser-Busch wholesalers.

Through Grey Eagle and his own personal generosity, Jerry Clinton provides financial support to hundreds of philanthropic organizations in the St. Louis area each year. One such organization is The St. Louis Backstoppers, an organization which assists the families of police officers and firefighters who lose their lives in the line of duty. Jerry created and sponsors the Budweiser "Guns 'N' Hoses" annual event that features friendly sports competition between area police and firefighters. The event has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for The St. Louis Backstoppers.

Jerry's vision as a civic leader found its greatest expression in his pivotal role in the construction of one of St. Louis' most significant public buildings, the Edward Jones Dome. St. Louis residents benefit extraordinarily from his dedication and vision for a domed stadium in the downtown area. Not only did the Dome return St. Louis to the ranks of the NFL, but it provides a venue for numerous concerts and cultural events, and has hosted both Pope John Paul II and the Rev. Billy Graham. The Dome sparked the revival of professional sports in St. Louis, as reflected in the Bowl victory and the selection of St. Louis to host the 2005 Final Four NCAA basketball tournament.

In addition to providing a location for world-class sporting and cultural events, the Edward Jones Dome has proven to be an important economic engine, attracting major conventions to St. Louis that would have gone to other cities apart were it not for Mr. Clinton's financial leadership in the development of the Dome.

Having joined Grey Eagle as a dispatcher/cashier when it opened in 1963, Jerry Clinton personifies what is possible in America with hard work and dedication. His generosity and hard work have made St. Louis a better place for all its citizens. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring this fine American today.

HONORING WEBSTER
ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEAM

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four students from Webster Elementary School in Webster, Florida. These gifted and dedicated 6- and 7-year-olds were recently honored as the Southeast Division Elementary School Champions in the 2005 National Toshiba/NSTA Explora Vision Awards Contest.

Each year the National Toshiba/NSTA Explora Vision Awards Contest is held for K-12 students throughout the United States and Canada. This year, the contest received more than 4,000 entries. Webster Elementary's website and research project was selected as the top entry for the entire Southeast Region.

Webster's student team was Dylan Brannen, Erin Tuten, Micah Lanham and Matthew Garrepy. Their coach was Mrs. Lynn Thomas and the team mentor was Mr. Kevin Garrepy.

The national contest required the students to conceive an invention that was both innovative and creative, combining imagination with scientific principles. Once the team was selected as the Southeast Champion, they entered the semifinal round where their challenge was to design five real web pages and a prototype of their invention. They should be commended for their successes.

Each member of the team received a framed certificate and a VCR/DVD player for their winning project. A Toshiba representative presented the students with the certificate and player and gave Webster Elementary a new laptop to use to complete the project.

Mr. Speaker, these students should be applauded for their hard work and innovation. Dylan Brannen, Erin Tuten, Micah Lanham and Matthew Garrepy have shown the ingenuity and hard work that all schoolchildren should strive for.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS FROM
SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participation of students from the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio in the National History Day competition. The students are from Shaker Heights High School, and they will be competing this week at the University of Maryland.

National History Day is a year-long education program that engages students in grades 6-12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Students produce dramatic performances, imaginative exhibits, multimedia documentaries and research papers based on research related to an annual theme. These projects are then evaluated at local, state, and national competitions.

Steven Aviram, Katharine O'Gorman, Miriam Mack, Samantha Miller, Rebecca Glazer, Hannah Engel-Rebitzer, Nteni Nlandu, Annie Sivertson, Laura Stern, Michael Stavits Bohl, Emily Krassen, Kelly Jackson, Nate Bixenstine, Tom Chokel, Andrew Wiedemann, Sarah Sy and Carter Wang are the 17 students from Shaker Heights High School that will be representing the State of Ohio at the national competition. I take great pride in the students of my district and always give me great joy to see them distinguish themselves nationally.

HONORING JOHN L. BURRIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and achievements of civil rights attorney John L. Burris of Oakland, California. Throughout his legendary career, John has provided hope and help to people who fall victim to the inequities inherent in our justice system. A leading civil rights advocate for more than 25 years, John has changed the

course of thousands of lives through his work on behalf of individual clients, and through the systemic changes his work has affected.

John was inspired to enter the legal profession after interviewing a number of lawyers in the black community for a research paper he was writing as a student at U.C. Berkeley's Haas School of Business. While working as an accountant and later attending business school in the late 1960s, he was deeply moved by the struggle for civil rights. During these socially and politically volatile years, he was affected most by the use of attack dogs and other brutal tactics by the police against peaceful civil rights activists. After successfully completing his MBA at Haas, where he helped found the National Black MBA Association and served as the president of the local chapter, he entered U.C. Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1970 to study criminal defense and civil rights law.

John first made his mark in the civil rights arena with the publication of the "Burris Reports I and II," which were the culmination of his investigation into the shooting of 15-year-old Melvin Black by Oakland police officers in 1979. Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson appointed John as an independent investigator of this case, and his findings provided an in-depth evaluation of flaws inherent in the law enforcement system, and of the urgent need for reform. The result for John has been over two and a half decades of work dedicated to redress for individuals and systemic reform that will decrease the number of people who need this kind of assistance. Furthermore, throughout his professional career, he has taken on extensive pro bono work, helping countless individuals and families to get their cases handled with efficiency, efficacy and compassion in a legal system that where these attributes are often lacking.

Though John's service to our community in the area of civil rights is truly unparalleled, his devotion to improving the lives of others extends far beyond the realm of direct legal assistance. In addition to his active membership in the National Bar Association, the American Association of Trial Lawyers and the National Lawyers' Guild, he was a founding member of the California Association of Black Lawyers and has done presentations and advocacy work in areas including sexual harassment, racial profiling, affirmative action, hate crimes and cameras in the courtroom. John has spoken in churches around the Bay Area on topics such as leadership, diversity and black family life, and has sponsored local youth athletic teams for over ten years.

John has also spoken at a number of local institutions of higher education, such as U.C. Berkeley, Golden Gate University, Vista Community College, and the law schools at Berkeley, Hastings, and Stanford University. At each institution he has taken the time to reach out to and mentor students at various stages of their education, providing them with advice and guidance, and often times employing them at his law offices. His legal work and community service have been recognized in a number of different forums throughout his life, and he has received dozens of prestigious awards such as the Clinton White Outstanding Trial Advocacy Award, the Pueblo Local Hero Award, and the Peace and Justice Award from California State University, Sacramento's Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution.

On June 11, 2005, the friends and family of John Burris will gather to celebrate the sem-

inal achievements and tireless advocacy that have marked his career. In Oakland and across the country, John is known for being the champion of people whose rights, and indeed whose humanity, have been ignored by the law enforcement and criminal justice systems. As a result of John's commitment to helping others, thousands of lives have been changed, and on behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and thank him for his service to Oakland, the Bay Area, the state of California and our entire country.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK L. CONNOLLY: A MAN OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND CARING

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the late Patrick L. Connolly, a long-time resident of Miami and a person who unselfishly donated his time, intelligence and efforts to helping improve the educational opportunities for thousands of Floridians as a Board Member of Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida.

Mr. Connolly was a special kind of man who really had two careers in his lifetime. He built a very successful career in the delivery business in both the Minneapolis and Atlanta markets. He served as president of Air Courier Dispatch Inc. of Minnesota, as Chairman of the Board for Mail Dispatch Inc., and as president of Courier Dispatch in Atlanta.

When he retired from his business to live in South Florida, he was not content to sit back and simply enjoy the fruits of his labor. He became actively involved in the community, joining the Board of Trustees of what was then Barry College for Women in 1978, and remained an active member of the board for 27 years until he passed away last week. During this time, he planned and oversaw the growth of Barry into a major educational institution with a national reputation in health sciences and minority education. He helped establish a scholarship in the name of Barry's 4th president, Sister Trinita Flood. He also led an executive council which helped revise the bylaws for the Advisory Board of the Andreas School of Business. He donated generously to Barry's capital campaigns, earning the designation as member of the Society of Founders. He became a member of the University's Covenant Society, by remembering Barry in his estate planning.

Mr. Connolly's name will always be associated with the institution he loved, Barry University. He embodied the spirit of Barry through his commitment and dedication to Catholic higher education. By any standard, he was a remarkable man, and he will be missed by his family, his friends, his extended family at Barry University, and by the countless people he never met who were given opportunities in life because of his efforts.

HONORING HIS HOLINESS
KAREKIN II

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch-Catholicos of All Armenians and universal head of the Armenian Apostolic (Orthodox) Church, upon his visit to the San Joaquin Valley. An event to celebrate his pastoral visit will occur on June 12, 2005 in Fresno, CA.

His Holiness Karekin II, baptized Ktrij Nersissian, was born in 1951 in the village of Voskehat in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia. In 1965, he entered the Theological Seminary of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and graduated with honors in 1971. Upon graduation from the seminary, he was ordained a celibate priest, taking the religious name Karekin.

Father Karekin then graduated from Bonn University in Germany while serving as pastor to the local Armenian community. He earned a postgraduate degree from the Russian Orthodox Academy in Zagorsk, Russia in 1979.

In 1980 he was assigned to the Araratian Pontifical Diocese, the Armenian Church's most populous diocese, which includes Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. In 1983, he was appointed primate of the Araratian Pontifical Diocese, and was elevated to the rank of Bishop and subsequently to Archbishop.

His Holiness was elected as the 132nd Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians on October 27, 1999 by delegates from Armenian Churches worldwide at a National Ecclesiastical Assembly, in the Republic of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch-Catholicos of All Armenians and universal head of the Armenian Apostolic (Orthodox) Church, upon his pastoral visit to the San Joaquin Valley. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking the religious patriarch for his dedication to the service of all Armenians.

STATEMENT HONORING CONSUMERS ENERGY AND THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM THEIR POWER PLANTS

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a utility company in my district that is working diligently to reduce emissions from its power plants. By investing in the future, Consumers Energy is demonstrating the understanding and foresight that sets it apart from its peers.

Founded in Jackson, Michigan in 1886, Consumers Energy has superbly served mid-Michigan by providing reliable and affordable electricity, supporting communities, operating in the best interests of the public, and respecting the environment.

Consumers Energy is in the midst of an \$815 million commitment to reduce emissions as part of current Federal and State requirements. As of March 2005, Consumers Energy